



eNews **LEGISLATIVE** **REPORT**

2018 General Assembly
Session Week 1
January 12, 2018

General Assembly session begins; House Elects Cox New Speaker

The **2018 General Assembly session opened Wednesday** on a high note, as **Delegate Kirk Cox was unanimously elected House Speaker**. In a show of unity, his nomination was seconded by Democrat Delegate Luke Torian.

That same morning, Democrat Shelly Simonds conceded the tied vote "[name drawn from a bowl](#)" victory of incumbent Republican Delegate David Yancey for a Newport News House seat. The U.S. Court of Appeals also declined to hear an appeal of a District Court ruling involving a Fredericksburg area seat won by Republican Bob Thomas, which assured continued Republican control of the House of Delegates, 51 to 49. **Once again, the VGEA reminds you, EVERY single VOTE COUNTS!**

Newly-elected Speaker Cox also spoke of "one House" in his acceptance remarks. He immediately announced that proportional representation on committees would continue and would be extended to subcommittees. In addition, recorded votes are now required in all committees and subcommittees. This was later codified in rules for operation of the 2018 session and adopted by the entire House of Delegates.

Opening day of the session always includes an evening prime time State of the Commonwealth address by the outgoing Governor. Like many before him, **Governor Terry McAuliffe** used the opportunity to recount his accomplishments. Initially, he went out of his way to pay tribute to state employees and thank them for their work during his term. Also, in a particularly poignant moment, departed from his prepared remarks to recognize those closest to him over the past four years. He especially